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SEE PAGE 3

HALIFAX metro®
Thursday, April 26, 2012
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BACK-TO-BACK WINS FOR MOOSE

Halifax Mooseheads netminder Zach Fucale scrambles to knock the puck away from Rimouski Oceanic forward Alex Belzile during Wednesday night's QMJHL playoff game in Rimouski. The Mooseheads won the game 3-1 to even the best-of-seven series 2-2. Game 5 is scheduled for Friday in Rimouski. Story, page 32. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Strike averted

Wages going to arbitration. Capital Health says it will be a few more days before all is back to normal



ALEX BOUTILIER
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After five days of mediation, Capital Health and the union representing 3,600 health-care professionals in the Halifax region have reached a tentative deal and avoided a strike.

But the main sticking point — wages — remains unresolved and will be put before a provincial arbitrator.

Capital Health's final offer included two per cent raises for the first two years of the agreement and 2.5 per cent in the third year. The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union wanted a 9.05 per cent total raise over that same period.

"NSGEU and Capital Health agree to submit the issue of increases in the rates of pay to final and binding arbitration by a Board of Arbitration," the tentative agreement reads.

Union members began voting on the deal late Wednesday. Voting will continue until Friday afternoon, with a final count expected Friday evening. The wage issue is expected to be decided by June 15.

"We believe it's a good deal," NSGEU president Joan Jessome told reporters on Wednesday night. "What's in the deal is something we can live with and that we can recommend. I don't think we would have gotten better if we were on strike."

Capital Health spokesman Peter Graham said it will take a couple of days for hospitals to get back to full capacity after bracing for the strike. "We ask for the public's patience as we work through these (appointment) lists," he said.

Capital Health is asking anyone with a cancelled appointment not to simply show up at the hospital, but to wait for a re-scheduling call from the health authority.

Mo' money

"Of course they did."

Joan Jessome, NSGEU president, when asked if the government came to the table with more money

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Rahman was ‘arrogant and cold,’ Crown says



Ashiqur Rahman at Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Halifax this week. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Closing arguments. Verdict for Halifax man charged in baby daughter’s death expected in June

The denials of a Halifax man charged in the death of his infant daughter don’t stand up against the testimony of the girl’s mother who alleged he abused the child, the Crown argued Wednesday in closing arguments.

Ashiqur Rahman, 26, has pleaded not guilty to manslaughter and aggravated assault in the July 2009 death of seven-week-old Aurora Breakthrough.

“On the whole, I would characterize his evidence as evasive, argumentative, self-centred, arrogant and cold,” Crown lawyer Denise Smith told the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Smith said the case hangs on Rahman’s credibility versus that of the 25-year-old mother, Jane Gomes, who has testified she saw her ex-boyfriend slap and shake the baby in the weeks before Aurora died.

Smith said Gomes made some poor choices in failing to take the baby away after witnessing the abuse. But she said Gomes was telling the truth about Rahman’s tendency to lose control and harm Aurora.

The defence has argued that Gomes’s testimony was motivated by a desire to shift blame away from herself, and came only after concluding a plea bargain with the Crown.

Gomes has received a conditional discharge with six months probation for failing to provide the necessities of life for Aurora.

But Smith said the defence’s argument doesn’t add up.

“If the defence position is that Jane Gomes chose to implicate Ashiqur Rahman to cover her own heinous acts ... then she did a pretty mild job of it,” said Smith.

She cited letters that Gomes wrote to Rahman’s parents while she was in jail in which she says she loves Aurora and still loves Rahman.

Smith said Gomes was a naive, young woman who was “swept off her feet” and didn’t want to believe her first lover had harmed their child.

She said it was only when an autopsy clearly showed Aurora suffered broken bones and brain trauma that Gomes wrote to Rahman’s parents to express her anger with Rahman. “Jane Gomes has always said what she knows,” Smith said. “No more and no less.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aurora’s short life

- Aurora Breakthrough died July 27, 2009, in the arms of a nurse who cared for her while her parents were in jail.
- Judge Felix Cacchione said he plans to give his verdict on June 22, though he added he may deliver a decision sooner.



Jane Gomes RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

1 NEWS

On the web

He be jammin’

Barack Obama hit the late-night TV circuit (to mixed reviews). Watch Obama slow-jam a stump speech with Jimmy Fallon at metronews.ca

Screeners cashing in?

U.S. Transportation Security Administration screeners accused of taking bribes to allow drugs through Los Angeles’ airport have been charged in a corruption probe. A 22-count indictment unsealed Wednesday outlined five incidents in which the employees allegedly took up to $2,400 to provide drug couriers unfettered access at LAX. Full story at metronews.ca

Mobile news

A mob of 30 women got into a bloody street fight in California after a wife discovered her husband was cheating on her with another woman, who was posting comments about the romance on Facebook. Scan the code for the story.



More electronic traffic signs planned for Halifax region

Transportation report. Messaging will be operated by Halifax Harbour Bridges

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Speed, fog, traffic congestion — those electronic signs on the MacKay Bridge have covered it all.

And now HRM is looking to install similar e-signs, called dynamic message signs, in other locations throughout HRM.

"If there is something happening on the bridge by the time you read the message, it's already too late. Whereas if we can get the message to drivers out at Miller Lake, Bayers Lake or Dartmouth Crossing, they can change their path," said Dave McCusker, HRM's manager of strategic transportation planning.

"What it really does is prevent bad situations from getting really bad."

McCusker, along with representatives from Halifax Harbour Bridges, will present a report to the transportation committee on Thursday.

There's $2 million in the recently approved HRM budget to install five or six signs in 2013-14, but McCusker said it might get put off again. Electronic signs have been an item in the five-year plan for years now, but the transportation committee could decide on Thursday the money is needed elsewhere and send it back to regional council.

At least one councillor, and member of the committee, Coun. David Hendsbee, is enthusiastically behind the electronic signs.

"I think it's critically needed to have this infrastructure in place to help with the advisories to our motoring traffic," he said.

The signs would also help with weather warnings, safety messaging and Amber Alerts from police. And they would be integrated into the city's evacuation plan. The signs won't be an energy drain, Hendsbee added, because they use LED lights.

"Our geography is a challenge for our traffic, and (the signs) will help move traffic around more smartly," he said.

The highest-priority areas for electronic signs are at the Highway 102 at Bayers Lake Business Park, near Miller Lake coming from the airport, and Dartmouth Crossing.

Signs of the times

- There are currently six electronic signs in HRM, all on the MacKay bridge or on the approaches.
- They've been operational for two years.
- No Amber Alerts have been broadcast since they've been operational.
- The province has two electronic signs installed on the Cobequid pass.



Six new electronic billboard signs in HRM would cost more than $2 million. CONTRIBUTED

Fans rally to support Nocturne over funding-grant snub

Love and support for Nocturne blossomed Wednesday after reports from city hall showed the nighttime arts festival wasn't receiving a grant this year.

Coun. Dawn Sloane brought up her concerns on Tuesday about turning down a grant to Nocturne: Art at Night from the non-annual grants program. Other events like Hal-Con Sci-Fi Fantasy Convention were also turned down. HRM staff said they're taking another look at these events and they will return to the grants committee soon.

But by Wednesday morning a Facebook page dubbed "Dear Nocturne I need you" popped up, with fans of the festival voicing their support.

"Where do we go? What do we do? Is there a demonstration or rally or what ... just want to be there if there is...This is nuts," wrote Adriana Afford.

Popular event

25,000

Nocturne: Art at Night, set for Oct. 13, is expected to attract about 25,000 people.

Rose Zack, chair of the Nocturne board, said they applied for a $34,500 grant — the same as they received last year — knowing the program was for non-annual events. According to policy, an event can't receive a grant two years in a row. But Zack said they were told the grant program was being revised and to apply anyway.

"We were sort of falling through the cracks," she said.

HRM has been a big help to Nocturne since it started, Zack said, not just for funding but also in staffing and other areas. Nocturne was previously funded through the cultural activities budget, before it was directed to the HRM's non-annual grant program last year.

Losing the grant would be detrimental to this year's festival, she added.

"Given the scale of the event, our budget is actually pretty small because we're volunteer-driven, so all our resources go to paying the artists or promoting the event," Zack said. "To lose a third of our cash budget would have a huge impact."

Zack said she's always found it incredible how much public support Nocturne receives.

"It's not a great thing, what's happening right now, but it just shows the support the community has for artists and events like these in the city."

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

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HOW A CREDIT CARD CAN HELP NEWLYWEDS FURNISH THEIR FIRST HOME

NEWLYWEDS



Ali and Fatima, both 29, are newlyweds living in Ottawa. In the fall, they used their wedding gift money to put a substantial down payment on a bungalow in the Elmvale Acres area of the city. The house has a small yard, an unfinished basement and "tons of potential," says Ali, who intends to finish it himself.

The couple is in good financial shape. Ali has a government job downtown while Fatima works for an association. Their combined annual income is $80,000.

They have a budget they can live with and their debt is manageable — along with the mortgage, Ali's student loan will be paid off in five years and their car is leased. What also helps is they receive financial help periodically from Ali's parents who live nearby.

Ali and Fatima are having fun furnishing their house, and they have an eye on the future too — children, a bigger house and "definitely, annual vacations south," says Fatima.

The couple has a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* cash back credit card, which they use for as many of their monthly purchases as possible. In fact, they just bought a new big screen TV and put the purchase on their card, earning them some valuable cash back.

The card gives Ali and Fatima 2 per cent cash back on everyday spending such as gas, groceries, drugstore items, and recurring bill payments, and 1 per cent cash back on all other eligible purchases. The cash back lump sum is automatically deposited into their savings account every November. While the *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card has a nominal annual fee of $39, its cash back earnings is more than worth it, says Fatima.

Their card has a $5,000 credit limit, and they try to pay off the balance every month because they like to have the credit available "just in case," says Ali. Their card also comes with tons of other features and benefits, such as Purchase Security and Extended Warranty Protection, that give the couple peace of mind when paying by credit card.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

Ali and Fatima's profile:

Ali and Fatima use their *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* card to pay for about $1,200 worth of purchases a month. Some fixed costs, such as their property taxes, are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.

	$0 — 300 — 600	
Grocery Store		$ 240
Gas Station		$ 150
Drug Store		$ 110
Recurring Bills		$ 120
Other		$ 580
	Total Monthly	**$ 1,200**

Ali and Fatima's Estimated Annual *Scotia Momentum*® Cash Back

Ali and Fatima have a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card (the card below on the left). Here's a look at the cash back their purchases add up to with their card — and a comparison with what their cash back would add up to if they had the *Scotia Momentum*® No-Fee VISA card (the card on the right).



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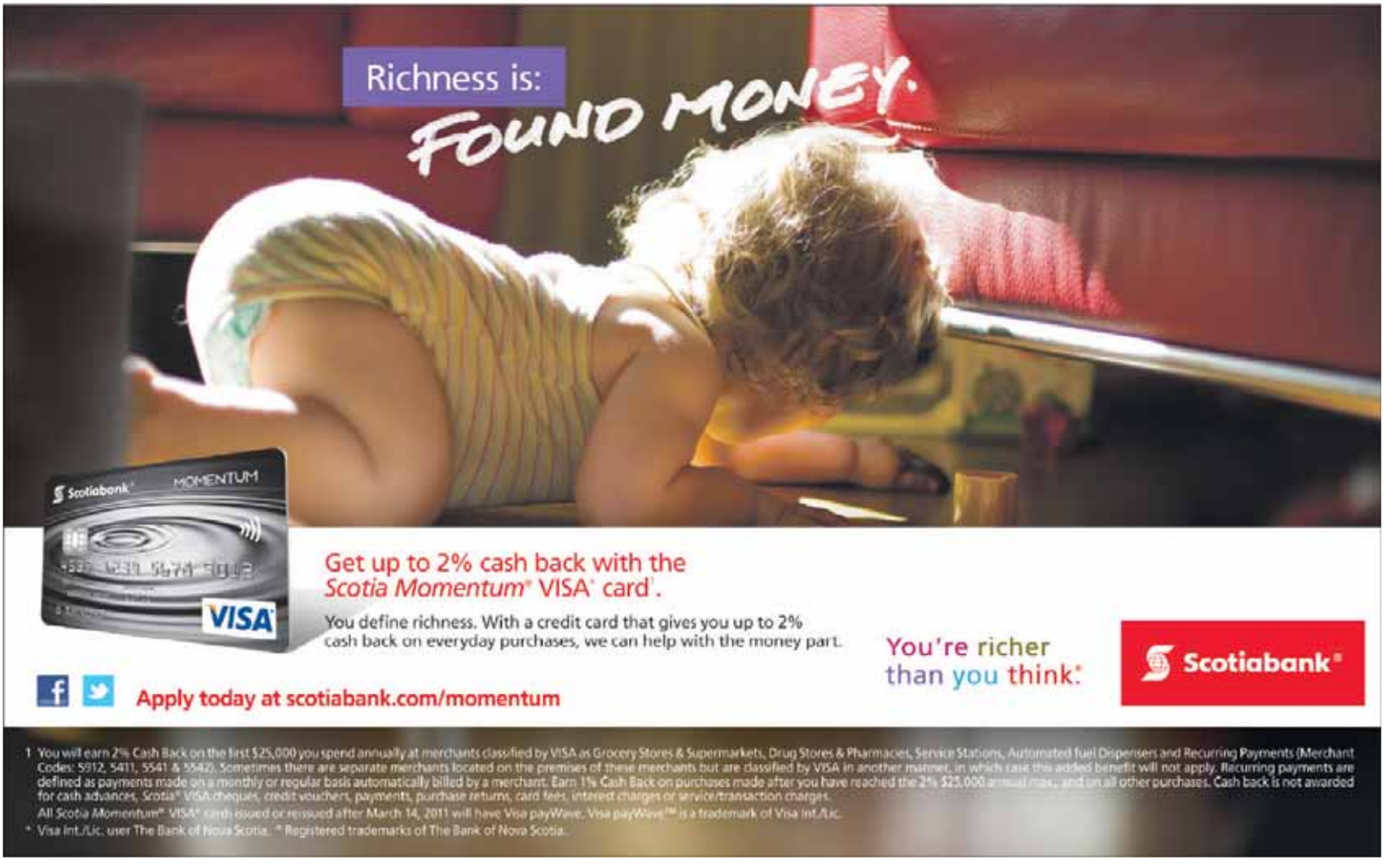
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Woman loses her locks for a cause

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Activist sacrifices 10 years' worth of hair to promote awareness of sexual violence against women

ANDREW DAVIES
halifax@metronews.ca

Melinda Norris knew her long dreadlocks would be worth something one day.

Well, that day arrived.

"Whenever I walk around in public, people are asking me about my hair, so I knew it was something that could raise awareness, attention, this time toward a good cause," the Halifax woman said on Wednesday.

Norris had 10 years' worth of hair shaved off outside the Halifax Public Gardens to promote awareness of sexual violence against women.

Norris has raised nearly $5,000 through fundraising and the money will go toward reducing the wait times for the counselling program at the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre in Halifax.

Avalon is the only centre of its kind in Nova Scotia and, according to a release, has a six-month waiting list for counselling.

"We have a crisis centre here in Nova Scotia which is, itself, in crisis because the need for their services is so much greater than what the team of councillors can deal with."

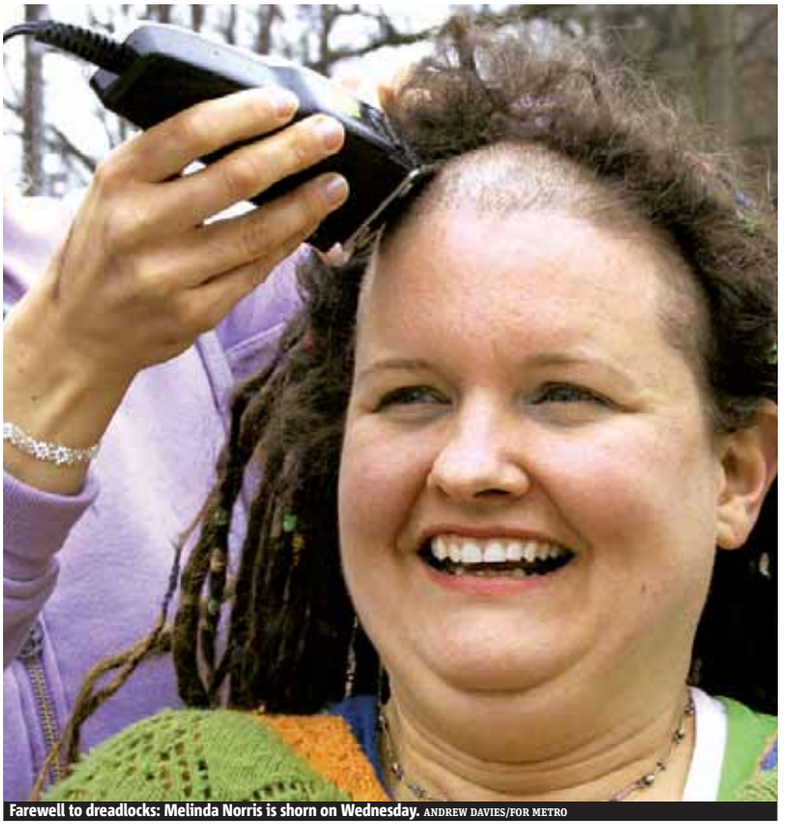
It was a few years after she started wearing dreadlocks that Norris decided to cut them all off one day for a worthy charity.

"Around the three-, four-year mark I realized that I wanted to grow them quite long and then shave them for charity ... especially when I learned about the crisis they have with their waiting list," she said.

"It was a no-brainer actually."

Irene Smith, the executive director of Avalon, was at Wednesday's head-shaving and said the response toward sexual violence in Nova Scotia needs more organization.

"We lack a co-ordinated response to sexualized violence ... and that's one of the big issues that I think our province has to deal with."



Farewell to dreadlocks: Melinda Norris is shorn on Wednesday. ANDREW DAVIES/FOR METRO

Inspiring

"I think people can be inspired, but, you know, even a silly activity like this can make a positive difference."
Melinda Norris

Halifax's own. Internet and TV boost Bell Aliant

Halifax-based telecom company Bell Aliant Inc. has reported a rise in profit to $87 million for the first quarter of 2012.

It says its digital TV and high-speed Internet services helped boost earnings.

Bell Aliant's net earnings in the same quarter of 2011 were $84 million.

Revenue was unchanged in the quarter at $682 million year-over-year.

The company reported adjusted earnings per share of 45 cents for the quarter, compared with 44 cents in the same quarter last year.

"We expected the quarter to show improved financial trends and the business has delivered," chief executive Karen Sheriff said in a news release accompanying the financial results.

Sheriff heralded Bell Aliant's FibreOP services for high-speed Internet and digital TV services.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ringing up a rise

38

Bell Aliant says its earnings per share was 38 cents compared to 37 cents for the same period last year.

Rough ride. Pictou roads can be highways of hell

More than half of the worst roads in Atlantic Canada are located within Pictou County, according to a list released from the Canadian Automobile Association Atlantic on Wednesday.

Foxbrook Road, Mark Road, Marshdale Road, East River West Side Road, Elgin Road and River Road all made the list.

The second CAA Atlantic Worst Roads campaign attracted 3,199 votes to identify the worst roads through a web-based voting platform.

Said Gary Howard of the CAA: "Of the top 20 Worst Roads from 2011, 14 were repaired or are in the process of being repaired."

Howard added, "Your government is listening to you."

NEW GLASGOW NEWS

The three worst roads

- **One.** Newfoundland and Labrador 360: Harbour Breton, N.L.
- **Two.** Newfoundland and Labrador 238: Elliston, N.L.
- **Three.** Foxbrook Road: Hopewell, N.S.

Board should reconsider strategy: Report



Premier Darrell Dexter
RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Provincial cuts. Schools had said they would lay off all librarians to deal with budget shortfall

A Nova Scotia school board that threatened to lay off all of its librarians in response to budget cuts should reconsider the measure, a provincial review concludes.

The report released Wednesday outlines a series of options totalling $1.63 million in alternate savings that it said could protect at least some of the 41 librarian positions at the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board.

Senior Treasury Board adviser Doug Stewart, who led the review, said the board has a variety of choices.

"I think that the board's complete elimination of library services is just inconsistent with the sector," he said.

He said one of the board's options is to cut eight teaching positions at the elementary-school level. The board could also reduce supports to some programs, including in-school suspensions, he added.

The provincial government launched the review two weeks ago in response to cuts that Premier Darrell Dexter said were calculated to "embarrass" the government.

Stewart found that in general, the board's decisions were "reasonable and understandable" in the face of declining enrolment. But he said the board was "somewhat rigid" in protecting its core principles.

"It was, without question, a full and thorough budget process," the report said.

Both opposition leaders called on Dexter to apologize to the board for his comments, given the report's findings.

"He should owe them an apology," said Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil.

Dexter was unrepentant."I think they were obviously politically motivated," he said. "In fact, transparently so."

$6.5 million

The board announced the librarian cuts earlier this month as it struggled to deal with a $6.5-million shortfall.

Dexter said his proof was in the report, which found that the board had not considered all of its options before proposing to cut all of its librarians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

St.John's. Flags fly at half-mast to protest loss of maritime rescue centre

The provincial flag was at half-mast Wednesday over city hall in St. John's, in protest of Ottawa's decision to close a maritime rescue subcentre.

Supporters say the loss of the centre, which co-ordinates North Atlantic rescue response in often treacherous conditions, will cost lives.

"It was done in recognition of the potential for future lives lost," said St. John's city Coun. Danny Breen. "It's symbolic in that the Newfoundland flag is lowered but you'll notice the Canadian flag is still flying high."

Breen says the region needs faster and better search and rescue response, not a cut in local service.

A spokesman for Fisheries and Oceans confirmed that calls would revert to the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Halifax as of Wednesday.

The federal government has defended the move as a cost-saving measure and says it will not jeopardize safety.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec centre

A similar centre in Quebec City was also to close, but will stay open for now while bilingual services are expanded in Halifax and Trenton, Ont.

Sackville

Man charged in armed robbery

Halifax police have charged an 18-year-old Middle Sackville man with armed robbery after the Needs convenience store on Beaver Bank Road was held up on Tuesday night.

Police say just before 11 p.m., a man entered the store, asked for cigarettes and showed the clerk a gun. The man then fled the store but was arrested a short time later. METRO

Stellarton

Lobster catchers demand more cash

Hundreds of lobster fishermen in southwestern Nova Scotia have decided to tie up their gear to demand a better price for their catch.

About 400 members of the Professional Lobster Fishermen's Association have voted in favour of the move. Spokesman James Mood says more than 300 boats could be involved in the demonstration Thursday. Fishermen have been receiving between $3.25 and about $5 a pound. Mood says they are demanding $5.50 a pound.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stellarton

School bus accident

A car and school bus collided in front of the Nova Scotia Community College in Stellarton on Wednesday afternoon.

Children were on the bus at the time of the accident, but none were injured. A woman who was in the Kia Sol was taken to the Aberdeen Hospital as a precaution.
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Canadian's ashes sent to South Korea for burial

Reunited in death. Two brothers fought in the Korean War, with one lost in battle in 1951 and the second dying in June 2011



Korean War veterans from Canada pay their respects Tuesday during a ceremony in Busan, South Korea.
AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Back in a country most of them saw for the first time more than half a century ago, about 50 Canadian veterans of the Korean War braved driving rains Wednesday to finally reunite a pair of brothers long since divided by the conflict.

Archibald Hearsey, born in Ignace, Ont., in 1929, had requested in his will that his ashes be returned to Korea and buried next to his older brother Joseph, who died in battle in 1951.

Their remarkable story is one of the Korean War's most powerful tales.

Hearsey died in June of last year. Wednesday's ceremony marked the first time a war veteran's remains were brought back to be buried on South Korean soil.

"They were two small-town boys that were separated by war," said Archibald's daughter, Debbie Kakagamic, who travelled to Korea with her son Solomon to attend the burial ceremony and visit her uncle's grave.

"Now they're together again."

Joseph Hearsey was one of 516 Canadian soldiers who died during the Korean War, which lasted from June 1950 to July 1953.

Canada was one of 16 foreign countries that sent troops, and 26,791 Canadian soldiers fought.

Health problems prevented Archibald Hearsey from ever returning to South Korea to visit his brother's grave at the UN Memorial Cemetery in Busan, where 378 Canadians are buried.

"The Hearsey brothers may now rest in peace beside their comrades," said David Chatterson, Canada's ambassador to South Korea. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prince George. Coroner ID's second fatality in fatal sawmill blast

A 46-year-old mill worker has been identified as the second victim of the blast that levelled the Lakeland sawmill in Prince George, B.C., on Monday night.

The coroner's service has confirmed that Prince George resident Glenn Francis Roche died in Edmonton just hours after being transferred to that city for treatment of critical burns.

Forty-three-year-old shift supervisor Alan Little died Tuesday morning in Prince George.

The men were among 11 severely injured when an explosion and fire tore through the mill.

Three victims have been airlifted for treatment at hospitals in Vancouver and Victoria, while six people remain in hospital in Prince George. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Reality check'

The manager of a sawmill at Carrot River, Sask., says the explosion that killed two mill workers in B.C. is a "reality check."

- Andy Borsa says the blast has caused re-evaluation of safety precautions.

Tuition protests

Quebec's talks with students break off

For three days, there was a faint sign that Quebec's student unrest might find a peaceful resolution.

Any such hope was dashed Wednesday as talks broke off between the province and Quebec's student groups.

Their three-day attempt at negotiation was a long shot, with the government refusing to back down on tuition hikes and students demanding just that.

The talks ended as they began — with rowdy street scenes. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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INCLUDES central accom, near Dam Square.

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Ottawa seeks appeal of bawdy-house ruling

Prostitution law. Federal government applies to Supreme Court for leave to appeal recent decision

Canada's three main prostitution-control laws appear destined for scrutiny by the country's highest court after the federal government announced Wednesday it wanted to appeal a decision that effectively legalized brothels.

As a result, the lawyer who successfully challenged the ruling on behalf of sex-trade workers said he had no choice but to try to appeal the ruling that also upheld the ban on street prostitution.

In response to a challenge from three sex-trade workers, Ontario's top court last month struck down the ban on bawdy houses on the basis that it increased the dangers prostitutes face because they are forced to work outside.

The five appellate justices also reworded the law against living on the avails of prostitution to clarify it would only apply in cases of exploitation because it could otherwise apply to people such as a prostitute's bodyguards, accountant or receptionist.

In its application to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal, the federal government said the Ontario Court of Appeal judgment creates a "legislative void."

"This represents a fundamental shift in criminal law and social policy in respect of provisions that have been in force, in some fashion, since prior to Confederation," the application states.

It also has an impact on police and prosecutions, both inside and outside Ontario, the government brief states.

Sex-trade workers, who hailed the Ontario court ruling as a recognition of their rights and said it would enhance their safety, expressed disappointment at Ottawa's decision.

Vancouver sex worker Amy Lebovitch called the federal government disrespectful toward prostitutes.

"We're telling them we need this to be safe and they're saying, 'Too bad'," Lebovitch, 33, said.

Toronto lawyer Alan Young, who acted for Lebovitch and the two other sex-trade workers, noted that six justices have already had their say.

"I'd like to see how the government of Canada gets around two very strong judgments that to me border on being incontrovertible," Young said.

The lawyer also said he would have been content to leave alone the Appeal Court ruling that upheld the ban on street soliciting but said he couldn't do that now.

"If we're going to be dragged to review those rulings, we might as well then appeal the ruling on communication because we always felt that law had many constitutional flaws."

Prostitution itself is not illegal in Canada, though many of the key activities were banned under the three laws considered by the Appeal Court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford in Toronto in March after the top Ontario court ruled a ban on brothels is unconstitutional. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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‘Negligence’ in course design to blame for skier’s death: Family

World Cup crash. Skicross racer Nik Zoricic, 29, died due to unsafe conditions of Swiss course, his family argues

Stunning negligence in course design and safety features led to the “entirely avoidable” death of a Canadian skicross racer at a World Cup event in Switzerland last month, his family argued Wednesday.

In calling for a thorough, independent inquiry into the death of Nik Zoricic, his family disputed the official position that he was killed in a “freak” accident.

“The finish line was a death trap,” family lawyer Tim Danson said.

“It is unacceptable that an elite athlete like Nik Zoricic can make a perfect landing, barely miss the finish line by one metre, and be killed for it.”

Citing four reliable sources, Danson alleged that race authorities had been warned beforehand that the course was unsafe. No one did anything, he said.

“These concerns were apparently ignored,” Danson said. “As a result, Nik is dead.”

In skicross, several racers hurtle down a mountain at the same time, making jumps and taking slight curves on the way.

Zoricic, 29, who grew up in Toronto, had raced on the World Cup circuit for more than three years and was competing in his 36th event in Grindelwald. He was killed at the finish line of a tight three-way race.

The family said it had no plans for legal action provided a proper inquiry is done, saying the aim is to avoid a repeat of the tragedy. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Katrina Zoricic, sister of late skier Nik Zoricic, speaks on Wednesday.

MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tori Stafford trial

Court sees video of detention-centre visits

A man whose lawyer has suggested he was nothing more than a horrified witness to the murder of Victoria Stafford at the hands of his girlfriend is seen on video with the woman a month later, flexing his muscles for her and drawing her in for a long embrace.

Michael Rafferty visited Terri-Lynne McClintic twice at a detention centre, where she was taken after being arrested days after the killing on an unrelated matter.

McClintic’s arrest apparently did not deter Rafferty from trying to keep in near-constant communication with her, records show.

Their phones — McClintic used her mother Carol’s cellphone — exchanged 44 text messages on April 10. After McClintic’s arrest Rafferty kept in contact with Carol McClintic, then he began calling the detention centre.

Over the next month about 30 calls were exchanged between Rafferty’s BlackBerry and the Genest Detention Centre, records show.

Rafferty visited McClintic there twice, and surveillance video played in court Wednesday shows the two laughing and joking around.

Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Homeland Security grilled on Colombian prostitution scandal

Washington. Senators challenge Homeland Security secretary on officers and supervisors implicated in controversy



Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano testifies on Capitol Hill.
SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conflicting portraits of the Secret Service took stage Wednesday in Congress, as senators challenged Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to reconcile the image of agents who protect the lives of America's president with the dozen officers and supervisors implicated in a humiliating prostitution scandal.

Napolitano told the Senate judiciary committee that the incident in Colombia involving as many as 20 women appeared to be an isolated one. She said the agency's office of professional responsibility had not received any complaints in the past two and a half years. She said investigators are reviewing earlier time periods as well.

"This behaviour was not part of the Secret Service way of doing business," Napolitano testified. "We are going to make sure that standards and training, if they need to be tightened up they are tightened."

The Colombia scandal has been widely denounced in Washington, but it's a delicate political matter in an election year with the presidency and congressional majorities at stake.

The White House said Wednesday that the conduct of the employees punished in the ongoing scandal was "inappropriate" and unacceptable for people representing the United States abroad.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican, pressed Napolitano about whether she believes this was the first incident involving prostitutes and the Secret Service.

"The only reason I suggest that we need to maybe look a little harder is because we're lucky to have found out about this. If there hadn't been an argument between one of the agents and, I guess, a prostitute, for lack of a better word, about money, we'd probably have never known about this."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Show of hands for 'show me your papers'

A supporter of Arizona's "show me your papers" immigration law demonstrates in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington Wednesday. The court's justices strongly suggested that they are ready to allow Arizona to enforce part of a controversial state law that requires police officers to check the immigration status of people they think are in the country illegally.

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WikiLeaks

Charges stick for U.S. army private

A military judge refused on Wednesday to throw out the charges against a U.S. army private accused of providing thousands of sensitive documents to WikiLeaks in the biggest leak of government secrets in the country's history.

Army Col. Denise Lind denied the defence motion to dismiss all 22 charges during a pre-trial hearing in the court-martial of Pte. 1st Class Bradley Manning.

Manning is accused of sending hundreds of thousands of sensitive documents to WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy website run by Julian Assange. The U.S. government says the publication of that material online aided al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

The defence has filed several motions seeking dismissal of individual charges, including the most serious, aiding the enemy. That offence carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Lind scheduled the trial to run from Sept. 21 through Oct. 12. She also scheduled four more hearings in June, July, August and September.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Like their counterparts in the comic-book world, Real-life Superheroes need villains. Real-Life Super Villains were created four years ago to help ensure superheroes stay moral. 'Villains' don't have death lasers or plans to rule the world. They take upon themselves the duty of demanding accountability of those who would call themselves 'super'

Villains gladly put hose to heroes



Kaptain Blackheart NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

NADIA FEZZANI AND THE GOLDEN DON
For Metro Canada

The interaction the Real-Life Super Villains have with the Real-Life Superheroes is mainly online.

Although it is known to happen, very rarely do RLSVs actually meet RLSHs in person.

For better or worse, the Internet is the medium. Approval, information-sharing, networking, collaboration and conflicts are played out on Facebook, YouTube and various message boards and forums.

Much like heroes, each villain operates differently.

Some Real-Life Super Villains criticize openly, sometimes cruelly, in posts and comments to demand response from heroes whose behaviour they find lacking.

Some mock by producing media designed to spoof and draw attention to the hero's shortcomings.

Targeting the 'capes'

"The reason I target certain 'capes,' as we call them, is that I don't believe that they are acting very heroic. If they are bigots or otherwise set a bad example for the community and/or the children who they are supposed to be protecting, it puts them right in my crosshairs. Heroes have no room for hate speech or supporting things such as crimes against women.

My goals have somewhat changed. I do not attack everyone who calls themselves a superhero ... just the ones who deserve it. There are those out there who I believe are genuine in what they are trying to do and truly wish to help people. I generally leave those people alone — and have actually become friends with some of them.

I will be honest: The costume makes things a lot more fun and theatrical for both sides. I mean, who wants to fight a 'hero' or 'villain' in a T-shirt and blue jeans? Come on — they get to wear costumes, then so do we!" Super villain Zyklon B

Villainy in disguise



The Golden Don
NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Keepers of the golden rule or cyber-bullies?

In many ways, Real Life Superheroes and Real Life Super Villains are more similar than they would want to admit. Many in both camps love comic books, and contribute to causes they believe in.

However, there are fundamental differences.

The greatest: RLSH go out and interact with their community in one way or another.

Villains, on the other hand, operate on the Internet.

Real Life Superheroes often criticize their nemeses by saying they waste their time in their "mothers' basements" nay-saying the RLSH world rather than making a real difference.

Many RLSH feel that the RLSV are simply costumed cyber-bullies.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO CANADA

Phoenix Jones: Masked

It was just like a scene from a movie the day Real Life Superhero Phoenix Jones' assault charges were dropped. As more than a dozen journalists and photographers crowded around him, the 23-year-old Seattleite took off his black and gold mask for the first time in public. For two years, he had been known for fighting crime. That day he told the world, 'I'm Phoenix Jones. I'm also Ben Fodor. I also protect the city, I also am a father, I also am a brother. I'm just like everyone else.'



Phoenix Jones NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Some call them Real Life Superheroes. Others refer to them as crime fighters or crime-prevention patrollers. Phoenix Jones and his team, the "Rain City Superhero Movement," call themselves a crime-prevention brigade.

For the past two years, they have been arresting carjackers, attackers and people threatening others with guns in the troubled areas of Seattle.

Equipped with bullet-proof vests, stab plating, pepper spray, Tasers and a first-aid kit, members of the 10-person team risk their lives to protect the lives of others. Even with protective equipment, the job is dangerous: Jones has been shot once and stabbed twice.

Jones is a six-foot-tall, 185-pound mixed-martial-arts champion who calls on lessons learned in his tough childhood to build his strong character.

Born to criminal parents who stole and sold narcotics, Jones — or Ben — was the middle child in a family of five. He was the only one who was sent to live in an orphanage until the age of five. "I guess it



hero exposed



was just luck of the draw. Just flip a coin," he recalls.

During that period of time, his mother got busted for selling drugs out of her baby carriage. When he was five, the system returned Jones to live with his father and siblings.

Two years later, life took a dramatic turn. While Jones was waiting in the car for his father to come back from running errands, he heard gunshots. His father had attempted to rob a convenience store and was killed.

Jones was placed in an orphanage but he wasn't like the others. Even though his mother was in prison, he had a parent.

Jones was adopted at nine years old, but had to spend half the time with his new family and half the time at the orphanage. At 11 he moved to his new home permanently and settled into a new school, where Jones starting training in martial arts. By 14, he was already a black belt.

After high school, he trained to work with autistic children, his passion for five years.

In October 2011, Jones was charged with assault when he broke up a fight using pepper spray. His costume was taken and his identity was revealed as public record. Even though the charges were dropped, the authorities kept his uniform for weeks.

Jones chose to embrace his circumstances, even though he lost his job and licence to work with the autistic because of the assault accusations. He faced the public bravely. Now, with a little less mystery, he continues to patrol, protect and inspire the citizens of Seattle.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO CANADA

Meet the Super Villains

Zyklon B

A prominent member of R.O.A.C.H., a villain group, Zyklon B took on a controversial name to match his approach to his criticism of heroes as a whole. He uses inflammatory comments that are designed to straddle the line of propriety, especially with new or unproven RLSH. "The bad guys are really the good guys. And the heroes are the villains," says Zyklon B.



NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

The Roaming EYE of DOOM

A comedic group of what some call "Metavillains," these fiction-based villains are led by Octavius Fong, an evil puppet. The EYE has included those like Kaptain Blackheart, the Baroness, Agent Orange and others. The goal is to hold a "funhouse mirror" to the RLSH community by producing humorous videos, web-cast radio programming and online personas. The Baroness has also exposed false RLSH whose goal was to send explicit messages to females in the online community. They try to maintain a high standard of ethics, if only to keep the higher ground.



NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Lord Malignance

Perhaps the most disciplined practitioner of "Metavillainy," he speaks of himself in third person as "One." His portrayal of this persona has led to the creation of a textured fictional existence that includes a headquarters he has built in his home. His goal is to inspire critical thinking through absurdity and imagination. "Superheroes are trapped in a group self-delusion of their own making. Whenever the truth appears, they run from it like kryptonite," says Lord Malignance.



NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Caligula Caesar

Caligula Caesar selected his name to embody the greed and thirst for power that his historical namesake so villainously displayed. Based out of Brooklyn, he calls his neighbourhood the New R.O.M.E. (Reign Over My Enemies). He got into villainy eights months ago, when he heard of local superheroes making what he considered to be preposterous claims about contributing to decreasing crime in his part of town. Today, he manages a forum where heroes and villains can debate, settle their differences and air their grievances without it being visible to fans and supporters.



NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

More at metronews.ca

- **Exclusive video interview: Phoenix Jones and Purple Reign with Pure Evil.** Until recently, Real Life Superheroes Phoenix Jones and Purple Reign have refused to communicate with Real Life Super Villains. Exclusively, they have accepted the invitation for an interview from the Golden Don and Kaptain Blackheart, the only "Metavillains" to be accepted by Jones.

Code of ethics



"A code of ethics is necessary if the community is to work toward a common goal. Because there are a growing number of superheroes, it's necessary that we all understand and trust one another. It's also important for the general public to know what we stand for, so that they, in turn, feel comfortable working with us. In my everyday life I'm a security professional, so I bring that background into the RLSH community. As the Silver Sentinel, I'm a mentor and friend to heroes around the world, offering advice and directing new people to training resources in their local communities." Superhero Silver Sentinel

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'This thing's huge.' Fossil stumps scientists

Experts are trying to figure out what a fossil dubbed "Godzillus'' used to be.

The 68-kilogram fossil recovered last year in Kentucky is more than two metres long. To the untrained eye, it looks like a bunch of rocks or a concrete blob. Experts are trying to determine whether it was an animal, mineral or a form of plant life from a time when the Cincinnati region was underwater.

Scientists at a Geological Society of America meeting viewed it Tuesday at the Dayton Convention Center in Ohio.

"We are looking for people who might have an idea of what it is,'' said Ben Dattilo, an assistant professor of geology at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Scientists say the fossil is 450 million years old. University of Cincinnati geologist Carl Brett said it's the largest fossil ever extracted from that era in the Cincinnati region.

"This is the ultimate cold case," said Ron Fine, the Dayton, Ohio, amateur paleontologist who spotted the fossil on a hillside last year and gave it its name.

"Like Godzilla, it's a primordial beast that found its way to the modern era," Fine said. Now 43, Fine has been collecting fossils since age four, and said he saw part of this one on a hillside off a Kentucky highway nearly a year ago.



The "Godzillus" fossil. THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Most fossils around here are small, the size of your thumbnail or your thumb," he said. "This thing's huge."

He said it could be an early form of seaweed or kelp.

"This one has us stumped," said David Meyer, another UC geology professor.

"Cincinnati was covered by a sea, 100 to 200 feet deep," Meyer said. "Primitive shellfish lived in it. But no fish.''

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Testing finds mad cow disease at U.S. plant



Women buy beef in Seoul on Wednesday. Two major South Korean retailers have suspended the sale of U.S. beef after a dead dairy cow in California was found to have had mad cow disease. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California. Authorities say consumers shouldn't be alarmed; disease cannot be transmitted by contact among cows

A nondescript building in the heart of California's dairy country has become the focus of intense scrutiny after mad cow disease was discovered in a dead dairy cow.

Two major South Korean retailers suspended sales of U.S. beef in response.

Tests are performed on only a small portion of dead animals brought to the transfer facility in central California.

The cow had died at one of the region's hundreds of dairies, but hadn't exhibited outward symptoms of the disease: unsteadiness, uncoordination, a drastic change in behaviour or low milk production, officials said. But when the animal arrived at the facility with a truckload of other dead cows on April 18, its 30-month-plus age and fresh corpse made it eligible for USDA testing.

"We randomly pick a number of samples throughout the year, and this just happened to be one that we randomly sampled," Baker Commodities executive vice-president Dennis Luckey said. "It showed no signs" of disease.

The samples went to the food safety lab at the University of California, Davis on April 18. By April 19, markers indicated the cow could have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a disease that is fatal to cows and can cause a deadly human brain disease in people who eat tainted meat. It was sent to the USDA lab in Iowa for further testing.

Agriculture officials announced the findings Tuesday: the animal had atypical BSE.

That means it didn't get the disease from eating infected cattle feed, said John Clifford, the Agriculture Department's chief veterinary officer.

It was "just a random mutation that can happen every once in a great while in an animal," said Bruce Akey, director of the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Confessed killer calls diagnosis a smear tactic

Trial. Breivik claims psychiatric report that found him to be insane is based on 'evil fabrications'

Mass killer Anders Behring Breivik slammed a psychiatric report that declared him insane, insisting Wednesday it was based on "evil fabrications" meant to portray him as irrational and unintelligent.

"It is not me who is described in that report," the right-wing extremist, who has admitted to killing 77 people in a July 22 bomb-and-shooting rampage, said in court.

A second psychiatric examination found that Breivik was sane. The five-judge panel trying Breivik on terror charges for the attacks will consider both reports.

Breivik's mental state is the key issue that remains unresolved in the trial, since he has admitted to a bombing in Oslo's government district that killed eight people and a subsequent shooting massacre at a Labor Party youth camp that left 69 people dead, most of them teenagers. He claims the attacks were "necessary" and that the victims had betrayed Norway by embracing immigration.

Breivik showed no remorse Wednesday as he listened to testimony describing the horrific injuries of the bombing victims, declaring instead that if anyone should apologize it was the governing Labor Party.

He said he had hoped they would change Norway's policy on immigration after his attacks.

Sounding irritated, the 33-year-old Norwegian accused the two psychiatrists who declared him psychotic of deciding on the diagnosis prematurely, saying their judgment was clouded by their emotional response to the attacks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A matter of sanity

If found guilty and sane, Breivik would face 21 years in prison, though he can be held longer if deemed a danger to society.

- If declared insane, he would be committed to compulsory psychiatric care.
- "To a political activist, the worst thing that can happen is to end up in a mental hospital," Breivik said. "That would delegitimize everything you stand for."

Madeleine McCann. U.K. police say missing girl may still be alive



Three-year-old Madeleine McCann and a computer-generated image of her at nine years old. LONDON METROPOLITAN POLICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British police on Wednesday asked Portugal to reopen the case of Madeleine McCann, saying that as the fifth anniversary of her disappearance approaches there is a possibility she is still alive.

Police also released a new image of what McCann would likely look like today, expressing hope that she would be found even years after the then-three-year-old vanished on May 3 while on a trip to Portugal with her family.

The case sparked global interest because of heartbreaking images of the girl beamed around the world and, in part, because her parents were briefly considered suspects before they were cleared.

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood said he is leading a team of 37 police officers reviewing some 40,000 pieces of evidence gathered so far. The team has identified some 195 possible leads to be followed up on, he said.

Redwood said forensic evidence of the sequence of events around her disappearance shows there are moments when she could have been snatched by criminals. He said he had an "open mind" on who could have abducted her, but asked for the help of Portuguese authorities, who closed the case in 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zoo tragedy

Elephant turns on zookeeper in N.Z.

An African elephant has killed a zookeeper caring for her at the New Zealand zoo where the animal was retired after performing in circuses for decades.

Police officers were called to the Franklin Zoo near Auckland on Wednesday afternoon after an incident between the elephant and the keeper, a New Zealand police statement said. It said more information would not be released until the woman's family had been informed.

Wednesday was a public holiday in New Zealand, but the zoo was open, as were many tourist attractions.

Jumbo, also known as Mila, is the sole elephant at the Franklin Zoo, according to its website. The 39-year-old elephant arrived four years ago after performing in circuses for three decades. The zoo built a new enclosure for her in 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Laid off Aveos employees protest outside the annual meeting of ACE Aviation, ex-parent company of Air Canada, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal on Wednesday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers accuse ACE Aviation of betrayal

Lost jobs. Air Canada's former parent company splitting spoils and abandoning workers: Protesters

Air Canada's former parent company was accused Wednesday of betraying workers by distributing millions of dollars among its shareholders as it winds down operations.

Hundreds of protesters blocked a downtown Montreal street where shareholders at ACE Aviation's annual meeting approved the plan to dissolve the holding company after less than 10 years of operation.

Vented anger

"They are responsible for the nightmare we are living right now."

Maxime Dolci, Aveos employee and local union vice-president

"They are going to distribute $350 million that belongs to us," Jean Poirier, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, said on the steps of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

While Air Canada struggles under the weight of more than $4.3 billion of debt and hefty pension obligations, ACE shareholders will split the spoils of selling its various divisions.

ACE barred reporters from its annual meeting. In a statement, it confirmed that shareholders approved the wind up of the company and plans to distribute between $250 million and $300 million in the coming weeks.

"The final distribution to shareholders will not occur earlier than mid-year 2013 in order to allow that any remaining contingent liabilities be settled or otherwise provided for," it said in the statement.

The protesters accused the Harper Conservatives of being in a conspiracy with Air Canada by not enforcing a law critics say requires heavy maintenance work to be done in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Watchdog. Fiscal restraint to cost 100K jobs: Report

Government spending restraint and cuts will lead to balanced budgets but also slower economic growth and 100,000 lost jobs, Canada's budget watchdog said Wednesday.

Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page's latest economic and fiscal report is surprising in that it agrees with the Harper government that the budget will be balanced in 2015-16 — maybe even a year earlier. But it says fiscal soundness carries a heavy price, with Ottawa taking $52 billion out of the economy and the provinces adding another $9 billion in drag.

"The PBO expects that restraint and reductions in government spending on programs in Canada will act as a drag on economic growth and job creation, pushing the economy further away from its potential (gross domestic product) and delaying the economic recovery," the report states.

The report was posted on the PBO website Wednesday ahead of Page's testimony before the Commons finance committee on Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Wired stuff: The Internet of inanimates

Technology trend. Non-human things creating and exchanging data constitute growing network

Smart vehicles, home-security systems and web-connected appliances are becoming part of what's known as the "Internet of Things," a growing network of objects creating and exchanging data without people being directly involved.

Things are getting a "voice," said Ric Asselstine, CEO of Terepac Corp., which makes tiny electronics to put into objects to make them "smart" and compatible with the Internet of Things.

"At the end of the day, what we're creating is information," Asselstine said via phone from Terepac's headquarters in Waterloo, Ont.

Creating information

"The potential is literally boundless."

Ric Asselstine, CEO of Terepac Corp.

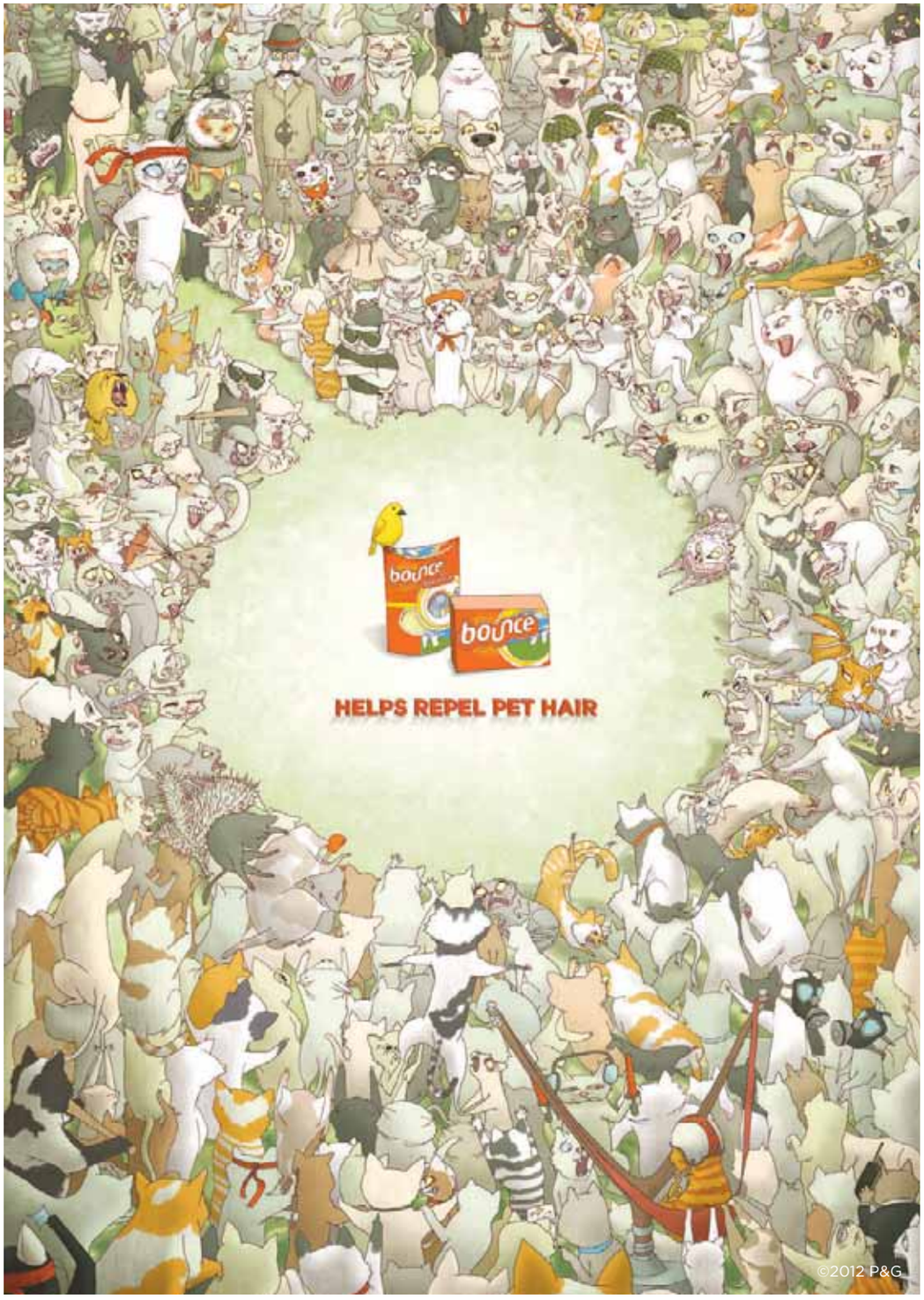
There is the potential for "trillions" of devices to be connected to the Internet of Things, he said. Consumer products, medical devices and agricultural methods, such as managing crop moisture with sensors, can be a part of the Internet of Things.

Data about locations and conditions can be transmitted through these objects, Asselstine said. Terepac can embed ultra-thin electronics in numerous objects, such as a hat with a logo, or a coaster. Asselstine said his company also has a software application to allow users to interact with the object either with a smartphone or just by tapping the object.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Josh Long installs a new alarm system in a new home in Morgan Hill, Calif., in 2009. Web-connected home-security systems are becoming part of what's known as the Internet of Things. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Transit trouble. Daimler AG to close Ontario bus plant in restructuring

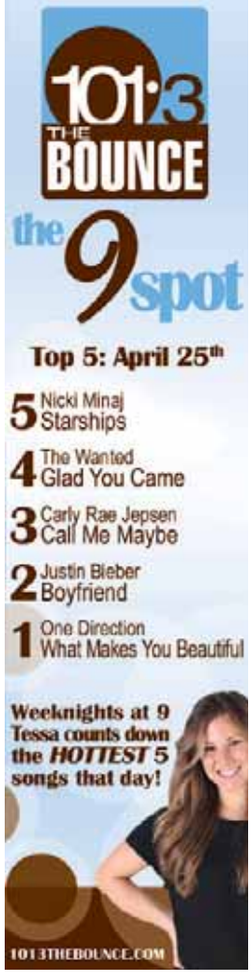
Daimler AG is closing a bus plant in Mississauga, Ont., as part of a plan to shut down its North American transit-bus business due to weak demand. The plant currently employs 390 people.

The German company said Wednesday it will immediately stop taking orders for its Orion buses and look to close the Toronto-area plant once it completes its current orders over the next year.

A plant in Oriskany, N.Y., will continue operations as a parts and field-service location. Daimler said the decision follows expectations that the transit-bus business will remain depressed for the next several years.

"The local market is in a continued slump, and growth opportunities are not available from selling the product overseas," said Hartmut Schick, head of Daimler Buses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Wind farm

Trump warns Scotland against blocking view

Donald Trump on Wednesday swept into Scotland's arliament to demand the country end plans for an offshore wind farm he fears will spoil the view at his exclusive new $1.2-billion US golf resort.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fast food

Burger King pledges cage-free pork, eggs

Burger King on Wednesday became the first major U.S. fast-food chain to pledge that all its eggs and pork will come from cage-free chickens and pigs by 2017.

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metronews.ca/hesays

Anyone else find it weird that the levels of outrage over a $16 orange juice and $25-billion fighter jets are roughly the same?

I understand, though.

It's difficult to wrap one's head around the Conservatives' $10-billion discrepancy between stated and actual fighter-jet costs because the average Joe rarely finds $10 billion in the couch cushions. It's such a big boondoggle there's no easy way to comprehend it.

On the other hand, we've all had $16 and we've all had orange juice.

So when we learn that Conservative MP Bev Oda had a taxpayer-funded $16 glass of juice at a super-posh London hotel — *because the first five-star hotel wasn't good enough for her* — we "get it" and go from zero to face-palm in 2.9 seconds.

People have been accusing Oda of having champagne tastes, but at least if the juice had been mixed with champagne, we'd have understood.

Dishonesty to the tune of $10-billion is bad, sure, but $16 orange juice, well, that offends our sensibilities.

This would explain why, when reimbursing the taxpayers for part of her costs, Oda left a wholly unnecessary $1,000-plus limousine on the taxpayers' bill, but made sure the orange juice was taken care of. She wouldn't want to look bad.

The only good news was that the relative clarity of Oda's OJ scandal makes the Conservatives' mishandling of the F-35 file that much clearer.

In both cases, the Conservatives criticized the opposition for doing its job. Oda called her questioners "extremist," which makes one hope she never becomes foreign minister.

In both cases, they said (essentially), "There is no scandal here, because once we got caught, we fixed it," which explains why they're the nation's leading experts on unreported crime.

And in both cases, they claimed to have followed all existing procedures. In the case of the F-35s, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the $10 billion came down to "accounting differences," which is like blaming a car accident on "differences in direction."

The only real difference between the two scandals is that the Conservatives apologized for the orange juice.

But if you're still finding it hard to grasp the F-35 screw-up, then maybe this last comparison will help: $25 billion could buy Oda 1,562,500,000 glasses of Tropicana.

Supplemental discipline

I'm Brendan Shanahan, Canada's director of taxpayer safety.

- In February 2011, in London, England, an incident occurred during a conference on the immunization of children in poor countries. In the opening minutes, International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda delivered an unnecessary cheque for $665 to stay at a posh hotel. This is overcharging.
- As the documents show, Oda had the five-star Grange St. Paul's lined up for what should have been a clean, honest cheque. However, she launched herself over two kilometres into another all-star. This is a violation of the overcharging rule, which states: "A minor or major scandal shall be imposed on an MP who decides a five-star hotel is for cheapskates."
- It should be noted that the Conservatives did not change their fiscally conservative position either during or immediately prior to the cheque.
- While we accept Oda's assertion that she did not intend to hurt her electoral chances, the moment she left the first hotel, she became responsible for causing numerous Canadians' heads to explode.
- Canada's Department of Taxpayer Safety has decided to suspend Bev Oda, but I have no real power, so I'm not going to do anything. Just like my old job.

The Ants go marching in



FENG LI/GETTY IMAGES

Beijing

Auto show links new technology

Dancers perform beside the Chery @Ant concept vehicle during the 2012 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition at China International Exhibition Center on Wednesday in Beijing. More than 2,000 automotive enterprises from 14 countries and regions are participating in the massive auto show from April 23 to May 2. **GETTY**

Going green

China's dream of electric cars elusive

China's leaders are finding it's a lot tougher to create a world-beating electric-car industry than they hoped.

In 2009, they pledged billions of dollars for research and called for annual sales of 500,000 cars by 2015.

Today, Beijing is scaling back its ambitions, chastened by technological hurdles.

The government has hedged its bets by broadening the industry's official goals to include cleaner gasoline engines. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Quoted

"It's expensive in China at the moment because of import duties, and we don't qualify for incentives.... But we still think it's important that we demonstrate its capabilities here in China."

Kevin Wale,
president of GM China

Electric capabilities

300 km

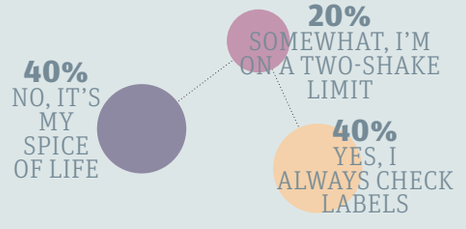
China's most advanced developer, BYD Co. (in which American investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Corp. owns a 10 per cent stake), says its electric e6 sedan can travel 300 kilometres on a charge — a range similar to that of Western models.

BYD has sold 300 taxis and 200 electric buses used in the southern city of Shenzhen, a centre for business and technology near Hong Kong, according to Henry Li, general manager of its export division. BYD has invested heavily in research and has thousands of engineers working on battery and motor technology.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are you concerned about your salt intake?



Twitter

@AmandaDebison: beautiful view of #Halifax & #Dartmouth today while running over the MacDonald! Fog is gone, mugginess still here!

@johnsoncj95: If mooseheads make it to the finals I'm gonna be away :(what to do with my tickets?.. #upset

@ChrisP1176: I've watched one game of Halifax Mooseheads' play-off run and they lost 4-1 so I decided I'm going to watch no more!

@LauraORourke: I just followed the worst cab driver in #Halifax. Without a doubt. Saw an accident almost happen more than once.

@petitmanion: Really disappointed that Tom Petty isn't coming to Toronto on his North American tour. I might just have to fly to Halifax to see him!

metro

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2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Jack White wrangled for Lone Ranger

Walt Disney Pictures has wrangled Jack White to compose the score for The Lone Ranger. The studio announced Tuesday that the Grammy-winning rocker will write, produce and perform the score for director Gore Verbinski's upcoming adaptation of The Lone Ranger. The film stars Johnny Depp as Tonto and Armie Hammer as John Reid. It is set to debut May 31, 2013. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

From playing a good guy or bad, TV to theatre, Topher Grace enjoys a varied acting career

Money aside, this comedy is just for laughs

Greg Proops. Whose Line Is It Anyway? star part of Halifax ComedyFest lineup



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

For a standup comedian, the best audience is always the one in front of you. Whether performing in Paris, France or Brandon, Man., for Greg Proops, it's all about having the chance to connect and engage.

"Of course, once you're done the gig in Paris, you're in Paris," Proops said of the advantages of travelling with his new podcast, The Smartest Man in the World.

Proops, who will be performing in the Halifax ComedyFest Gala Finale on Saturday night at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, remembers when it wasn't always baguettes and brie.

"Your first goal when you start in stand-up is simply to get paid," he said.

In 1989, Proops joined the cast of a new improvisational TV show, Whose Line is it Anyway? Surprising everyone, the show quickly became a mainstream success. Proops remained a star, across the pond and stateside, for 14 years.

"We were legitimately making things up, so there was a sense of thrill," he said. "It was genuine creativity."

Now, Proops has once again hit his stride as he tours around Europe and North America with his podcast.

"The podcast has changed everything, and it's the most fun I've had in 100 years," he said.

"It's brought me back where I've wanted to be, which is in front of a comedy crowd."

"Ever since I've been doing the podcast, I've been able to communicate directly with the audience and watch it build — it's been enormously gratifying."

As Proops' podcast reaches its second birthday, he looks forward to expanding the gospel worldwide.

"I'd like to take it all over the world and meet the people that come," he said.

"I want the crowd there because I need them to react and I enjoy that chemistry."

Halifax ComedyFest

This year's Halifax ComedyFest runs through at various venues in the city.

- Other featured performers include Gerry Dee, Steve Patterson, Derek Edwards and Alonzo Bodden.
- For ticket information and the full event schedule, visit halifaxcomedyfest.ca.



Tickets are $39 to see Greg Proops and others at the Halifax ComedyFest finale on Saturday night. CONTRIBUTED

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Beyoncé named World's Most Beautiful Woman



Beyoncé's beauty secret? Having a baby.

"I feel more beautiful than I've ever felt because I've given birth," the singer tells People magazine, which named her the 2012 World's Most Beautiful Woman.

"I have never felt so connected, never felt like I had such a purpose on this earth." Beyoncé and husband Jay-Z welcomed daughter Blue Ivy Carter three months ago.

"The best thing about having a daughter is having a true legacy," Beyoncé adds. "The word 'love' means something completely different now."

Bieber pens song about paternity scandal

Justin Bieber is making the most of his paternity scandal last year.

"(I've written) a song about that whole situation with that girl who said she's having my baby — Mariah Yeater," Bieber says, according to AOL, adding that the track is "about everything I've gone through." Yeater claimed that she had a sexual encounter with Bieber at a concert in L.A. when she was 19 and the Canadian pop star was 16, leading to her pregnancy.

Bieber later took a DNA test to disprove her claims.

The Word

Chris Brown breeding, selling pit bull puppies



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca



Chris Brown and his family are selling pit bull puppies online — for $1,000 a pop.

The media was tipped off to the pop star's new business venture by his mother, who tweeted a link to the dog-selling site, along with a picture of Brown cuddling one of the puppies. A rep for the singer confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that Brown and his family are indeed selling the 2-month-old pit bulls online.

The publicist's spin on the high price tag is that Brown, whom she defines as "an animal lover," "wants to make sure the dogs go to a good home."

Look, dog breeding is one thing. But breeding pit bulls? That's especially irresponsible. According to recent stats from the Humane Society of the United States, 70 per cent of dogs housed and euthanized in urban animal shelter systems are pit bulls. An even more depressing statistic from the Los Angeles Humane Society says that around 200 pit bulls in L.A. alone are euthanized every day due to over-breeding and lack of adoption opportunities.

The point being: Shelters are overrun with the breed, and thousands upon thousands are killed every year because no one will adopt them. And yet, Brown is selling each puppy for $1,000? Gross.

I'm channelling my inner Bob Barker when I say: I'm pretty sure the way for Brown to show that he's a true "animal lover" is to make sure his pets are spayed and neutered — and not to breed and then sell them on a website. Especially when, come on — does he really need the money?



Mila Kunis ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Ashton and Mila continue to feed rumour mill

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis may have denied last week's reports that they've become more than just friends, but their recent activities aren't doing much to help that assertion.

The two reportedly shared a weekend getaway up the California coast, according to People magazine.

Witnesses spotted Kutcher and Kunis headed to Carpinteria, Calif., where they grabbed lunch and some fresh fruit Friday — and didn't surface again until Sunday morning. A source close to Kutcher says something like this has been in the cards since their That '70s Show days.

"He was so in love with her for a while when they worked together," says the source. "He thought she was a goddess, was always talking about how beautiful she is. But she was with Macaulay (Culkin) for a lot of that time and also just generally gave off a not-interested vibe."

Ozzy is a grandfather

Jack Osbourne and his fiancée, Lisa Stelly, are the proud parents of a newborn baby girl, welcoming daughter Pearl on Tuesday, his rep confirms to People magazine. It's the first grandchild for Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. Sharon previously announced her intentions of spoiling the new addition. "I'm going to be the grandmother from hell, because I am going to spoil this baby so bad," she told People earlier this year. "My son and Lisa are going to be like, 'Get her out of here!'"

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3 LIFE

Style file

Narciso Rodriguez honoured

Fashion designer Narciso Rodriguez has always referenced the world of art: Modern paintings are one of his many sources of inspiration. It seems fitting, then, that El Museo del Barrio will honour the designer of Cuban descent next month during its annual gala. In its announcement, El Museo said that Rodriguez is considered one of the 25 most influential Hispanics in America. "It's a great compliment. I don't know if it is necessarily true, but it is a great compliment. I like to think that I have given back to the community," Rodriguez said during an AP interview. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Montreal Fashion Week finds a new home at contemporary art complex

Vivienne Westwood: 'I prefer freedom fighter'

Sustainable style. In Westwood's world, it's not about Earth Day. She'd rather you celebrate Earth Year instead. We discuss.



KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

When did you first become conscious of the environment and our impact on it?

For a couple of decades I've been really upset about the problem of climate change, and I couldn't bear the idea that we're still cutting down the rainforests. I just couldn't believe that the statistics were getting worse, not better. And then I read an interview with James Lovelock. He is a genius, the scientist who launched the 'Gaia' Theory.

Gaia is the name the Greeks gave to the earth goddess. James Lovelock thinks we are too late to stop climate change and that by the end of this century there will be only 1 billion people left. Fortunately! The consensus among almost all scientists is that we have now only up to 2020 to do something — eight more years.

And it's important for Americans to know that the [people who deny that climate change exists] are few but they are well-funded and well-publicized.

Do you consider yourself an environmental activist?

A name I prefer is 'freedom fighter.' I've got a voice because I've got a lot of credibility as a fashion designer. So I have been using my fashion for the last five or so years as a medium.

I use slogans and graphics in lots of my designs. I also give my fashion shows titles related to saving the planet or climate change, like Plus Five Degrees. Plus five degrees is uninhabitable, it looks good on a T-shirt and promotes awareness.

What would you say to people who view your fighting to save the planet and reduce consumption from the helm of a global fashion empire as being contradictory?

My aim is quality, not quantity. Timeless clothes that last, for people who make choices and don't just consume.

For people who can't afford my clothes, I hope to provide a standard of good design, which will help them to choose clothes that will suit them.

What are some changes that you've made in your own life to live in a more sustainable, ecologically-minded way?

I ride a bicycle for convenience and I'm a person who doesn't like to waste things. I never waste food, for example. I was brought up after the war, so I'm used to not wasting.

I also don't eat meat. I'm a very privileged person, living in this part of the world, so I can make choices and my preferred food really is just fruit and vegetables. You don't need other food. This is optimum health. Once you get into it, nothing else tastes so good.

Safe spending

Our three favourite bags from Vivienne Westwood's line, Ethical Fashion Africa, handmade in Nairobi. viviennewestwood.com



LIGHTNING SHOPPER
$250



I LOVE CRAP CLUTCH
$160



BARK FLOWER CLUTCH
$150

Gorgeously green

Vivienne Westwood's tip for living sustainably:

- **Buy less.** "Buy less, choose well and make it last. I really do think that people should exercise choice and not just consume without thought — sucking up stuff all the time, one thing after another."

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Red-Curry Chicken Noodles



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's red, but it isn't red hot. And that's why red-curry paste is the sort of curry the average Canadian is going to love.

Curry pastes — which are used in Thai, Indonesian, Malaysian and Indian cooking — combine dry spices with ground fresh herbs and roots, garlic, chilies and other ingredients to form thick pastes. These often are classified by colour.

Green-curry paste, for example, is a fiery Thai blend that combines green chilies, lemon grass, garlic, shrimp paste and kaffir lime leaves. It usually is blended with coconut milk to season beef, pork and chicken.

Yellow-curry paste is a bit milder and usually sports garlic, lemon grass, galangal, cumin, cinnamon and turmeric. It's popular for adding to soups.

But the most versatile and widely used is red-curry paste, a mash of red chilies, coriander roots and leaves, shrimp paste, lemon grass, garlic, shallots and galangal.

It's got some kick, but it won't sear your mouth. It's used with everything from chicken, duck and beef to pork and shrimp. And it lands in everything from stews, curries and soups to dressings, marinades and condiments.

Conveniently, red-curry paste also is the easiest variety to find at the local grocer. It usually is packed in small glass jars or cans and can be found in the Asian section. Once opened, the remainder can be refrigerated for months.

Here, it's used to make Red Curry Chicken Noodles.

Ingredients

- 12-oz package fresh fettuccine pasta
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 14-oz can coconut milk
- 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 tbsp red-curry paste (more or less to taste)
- Meat from a 1 1/2-lb. rotisserie chicken
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 lime, quartered

1. Bring saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in a large sauté pan over medium-high, heat the olive oil. Add the onion and bell pepper, then sauté until tender, about 10 minutes. Add the coconut milk and red curry paste. Stir until the curry paste and coconut milk are smooth, then bring to a simmer.

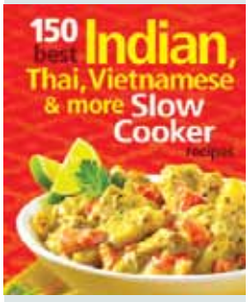
3. Chop or pull the chicken meat into bite-size chunks, then add to the coconut milk mixture. Toss well to coat evenly. If the meat is cold, return to a simmer. Stir in the cilantro.

4. Serve the pasta topped with the chicken. Alternatively, add the drained pasta to the pan with the chicken and toss to mix. Just before serving, squeeze a bit of lime juice over each plate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

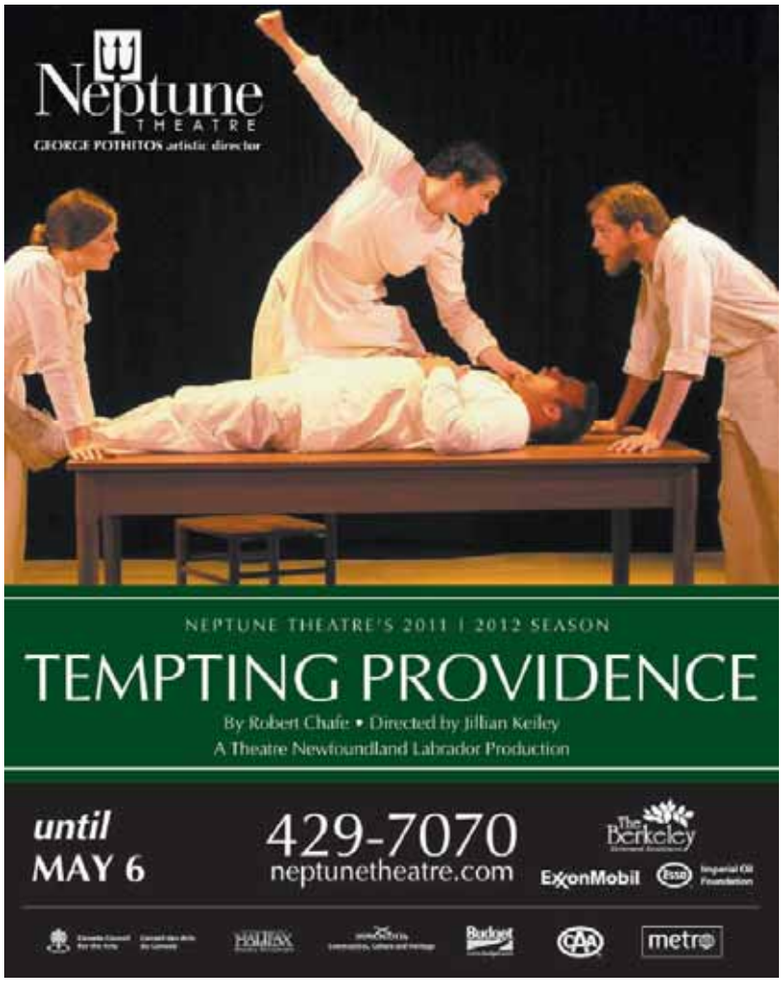
150 Best Indian, Thai, Vietnamese & More Slow Cooker Recipes



Slow cookers and curries go well together, and that's the idea behind Sunil Vijayakar's latest book.

The release boasts recipes with ingredients you'll easily find at your local grocer. There are also creative twists on accompaniments along with slow cooker know-how such as preparing various types of food for the slow cooker.

Among the recipes are Bangkok Sour Pork Curry, Sticky Jasmine Rice, Spiced Prawn and Pineapple Curry, Creamy Spinach and Tomato Dhal, and more. METRO





Top 6 small appliances



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

6



Hamilton Beach Griddle

Independent temperature controls for each side of the griddle and two separate cooking surfaces with individual drainage means warming and cooking a variety of food when entertaining is a breeze. For use as a griddle, grill or warming tray, it's great for summer entertaining at the cottage or at-home parties. $70, HamiltonBeach.ca

5

Kenwood Cooking Chef

The appliance world is buzzing about this kitchen machine that cooks and stirs at the same time with an induction-cooking feature. Beat, whisk, blend, process, grind and juice with the attachments. It's arriving in fall 2012 with a price of $2,000 at department and specialty stores across Canada. KenwoodWorld.com



4



De'Longhi Lattissima Plus

Works with the Nespresso Coffee Capsule System and includes a milk container for lattes and cappuccinos — all with a simple push of a button. The milk container can be refrigerated when not in use and the illuminated controls make selecting your drink choice simple. It's one of the best-priced machines of its kind at $399. Nespresso.com

3

Brevill's Smart Oven

One of the most-used cooking appliances is the toaster oven. The Smart Oven BOV800XL heats from 120-500 F, with a convection fan for fast and easy baking (which reduces cooking time by 30 minutes). It automatically adjusts the heat for an exact cooking process. $330, The Bay, Breville.ca



2



Cuisinart Professional Food Slicer

For an at-home deli, this appliance allows you to choose the thickness of cheeses and meats — great for those who are diet-conscious or charcuterie aficionados. It saves time in the kitchen, and allows families to cut roasts into healthy sliced meats. $130, cusinart.ca

1

Cuisinart Meat Grinder

All stainless-steel housing with a heavy-duty motor and die-cast hopper for great strength, this meat grinder comes with three cutting plates (fine, medium and coarse). It includes two sausage attachments. Make meatloaf and sausages — and know what ingredients you are feeding your family. Great for summer grilling! $130, Canadian Tire and Home Outfitters, cuisinart.ca



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FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Home keys

Tips. Ask plenty of questions and write down answers when buying your first home

PETER DOYLE
For Metro

Given that buying a home is the largest financial transaction most of us ever make, it's no surprise that it can be a complicated undertaking.

Before you start shopping, make sure to do your research. Set aside lots of time to consult with experts such as bankers and mortgage brokers, real estate agents and lawyers. Ask plenty of questions and write down the answers you receive. That way, you will have the information you need to make the right decision.

How much house can I afford?

Buying a first house is definitely a reality check. Before you start considering neighbourhoods and looking at homes, it's crucial to establish a price range. You will need a minimum down payment of five per cent of the house's purchase price (on a $400,000 home, that's $20,000). The general rule is: The more money you put down, the less you will have to spend on mortgage and insurance payments.

Start by making a budget

Calculate how much you currently spend each month on everything: Rent, food, insurance, loan payments, taxes, travel and entertainment.

Make a list of your assets (savings, vehicles, property), as well as your current and projected salary. Then make a few appointments with bankers and mortgage brokers; they will help you figure out an affordable price range. Pay close attention to interest rates; a difference of only a quarter point (e.g. three per cent versus 3.25 per cent) can quickly add up to thousands of dollars. If you have been wise enough to invest in a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP), consider the federal government's Home Buyers' Plan.

Under the plan, you may withdraw up to $25,000 from an RRSP to invest in your first home. There is no tax penalty if you pay the money back within 15 years.

House shopping

When it comes to house shopping, research is your best friend. Start with you and your partner: where would you like to live? If you commute, how far are you willing to live from your workplace? What home features are most important to you (garage, yard, home office, ensuite bathroom)? Can you handle house repairs and renovations? Be honest: For most couples, buying a home is a stressful experience.

Once you have an idea of what you are looking for, decide whether to shop on your own or with a real estate agent. A good agent will save you much time and effort.



Buying a first house can be a reality check, but by following some basic guidelines it may make the process less complicated. MONKEY BUSINESS/THINKSTOCK

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Mortgage basics. What you need to know

JANE DOUCET
For Metro


Before you can be pre-approved for a mortgage, you must pre-qualify. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

To say that buying a first home can be overwhelming is an understatement. The process comes with a language all its own, mostly around mortgages: Pre-qualification; amortization; fixed, variable, open and closed options; credit-score calculations.

"Working with a trusted mortgage professional can help simplify the process," says Mary Ann Krahulic, the Calgary-based manager of business development for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Before you sign on the dotted line, make sure you have done the following:

Saved enough for a down payment. The minimum down payment is currently five per cent of a home's value; if your dream house is $350,000, you will need at least $17,500. Put more than 20 per cent down and you won't have to pay mortgage loan insurance. "The more you put down, the less of a credit risk you are for the mortgage lender," says Krahulic.

Checked your credit rating. Lenders look at your credit score to determine what kind of repayment risk you pose. Ask your lender to check it or do so yourself online through Equifax or TransUnion. "If your rating is poor," says Krahulic, "you may have a harder time getting approved."

Received pre-approval. Before you can be pre-approved, you must pre-qualify. A mortgage professional will help you learn what you can afford to buy before you start looking. This involves an honest conversation about your finances that will help determine how much of a loan you can get. The amount you are pre-approved for is how much of a loan the lender has committed to giving you.

Reviewed mortgage options. The two most common types are open (the rate can be locked in and additional payments made) and closed (the rate is locked in and the terms are fixed). Then there are fixed rate (a locked-in rate that won't increase for the term of the mortgage) and variable rate (it fluctuates based on market conditions but typically has a fixed payment).

It's important to learn the terms of each type. For example, does it allow extra, increased or accelerated payments? Varying payment frequency?

"Mortgage professionals typically advise first-time homebuyers to choose a fixed mortgage because of the predictability of the payments," says Krahulic.

What first-time homeowners need

As a first-time homeowner, you have set out on an unfamiliar journey. To help ensure smooth sailing, use this checklist; prowl garage sales to find good quality items at low prices.

Indoors
- Décor: Window treatments, rugs, lamps, lights, furniture.
- Kitchen essentials: Meat thermometer, cutting board, set of knives, oven mitts, all-clad pots, roasting pan, food processor, stainless steel mixing bowls.
- Vacuum cleaner.
- Humidifier, dehumidifier.
- Linens, towels.
- Extension cords, surge protector.
- Garbage cans.
- Ladder.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Remove locks from all entrance doors and take them to a hardware store to re-key — it's cheaper than buying new locks.

Outdoors
- Barbecue.
- Garden furniture.
- Snow shovel or blower.
- Lawn mower.
- Gardening equipment: hose, sprinkler, trowel, shovel, rake, hoe, push broom.

Tools for basic home repairs
- Toolbox.
- The basics: Vise grips, needle-nose pliers, screwdriver set, wire cutter/stripper, tape measure, electrical tester, reversible drill with set of bits, utility knife, handsaw, level, safety glasses, pry bar, chisel.
- Flashlights.
- Lubricant (such as WD40).
- Duct tape.

Save on utility bills

If you are like most new homeowners, you have a large mortgage to pay off over 20 or more years. A good way to become debt-free more quickly is to reduce your energy bills and use the savings to pay down the mortgage. Start by establishing a baseline: Ask for copies of the previous owner's bills for hydro, gas and heating oil. Monitor your bills closely and compare them with old ones, paying close attention to the amounts of energy consumed.

Here are some tips to help you reduce consumption:
- Make sure the temperature of your water heater is set no higher than 55 C (120 F).
- Install ceiling fans and use them properly (pushing warm air down in winter and drawing cool air up in summer will reduce your heating and cooling needs).
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Fix any leaks in taps, sinks and toilets.
- Install and use an outdoor clothesline, and indoor drying rack.
- Change the filter on your furnace regularly (typically four to six times per year).
- Install a rain barrel and use it when watering the garden.

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Moving in. Neighbours are now part of the deal

YLVA
VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Cooking smells and cigarette smoke are the two most frequent complaints that the condo board hears about, according to Linda Lavallee, president of Condo Corporation, Toronto.

Pets and noise are also disruptive to some people.

"Living in close quarters is only for respectful, considerate and civilized people. It's all about your rights, my rights, and privacy."

Of course, whether you are looking to buy a condo or a semi- or detached home, your neighbours are part of the package.

In condos, people are living on top, next and below each other.

There has to be strong control bylaws — and good manners. It's similar for homeowners in semi- and detached homes where the most common issues are fences and trees.

The property survey will show what's yours, what's theirs and what's shared, says Robert J. Lesperance, Canadian Bar Assocation B.C. branch co-chair for environmental law. He practises in Vancouver.

While you can trim tree branches that are encroaching on your property (as long as it doesn't damage the tree), if a fence is shared, the two homeowners must make decisions about changes together.

Even if the fence is on your property, it's a courtesy to share any changes you are planning with your neighbour.

At the end of the day, your duty is to make sure you don't cause damage to your neighbour's property and to be civil and respective at all times.

If you do have a problem:

The first step is to talk to your neighbour, says Lawless. "Reasonable people should be able to come to a reasonable solution."

Remember that whatever course of action you take, the neighbour will still be there in the morning. You will have to continue to live next to them unless one of you decides to move.

If you can't sort out the problem in person, the next step is to consult municipality bylaws (for example, the laws governing fence height, noise, etc.). A bylaw enforcement officer may be able to resolve the problem.

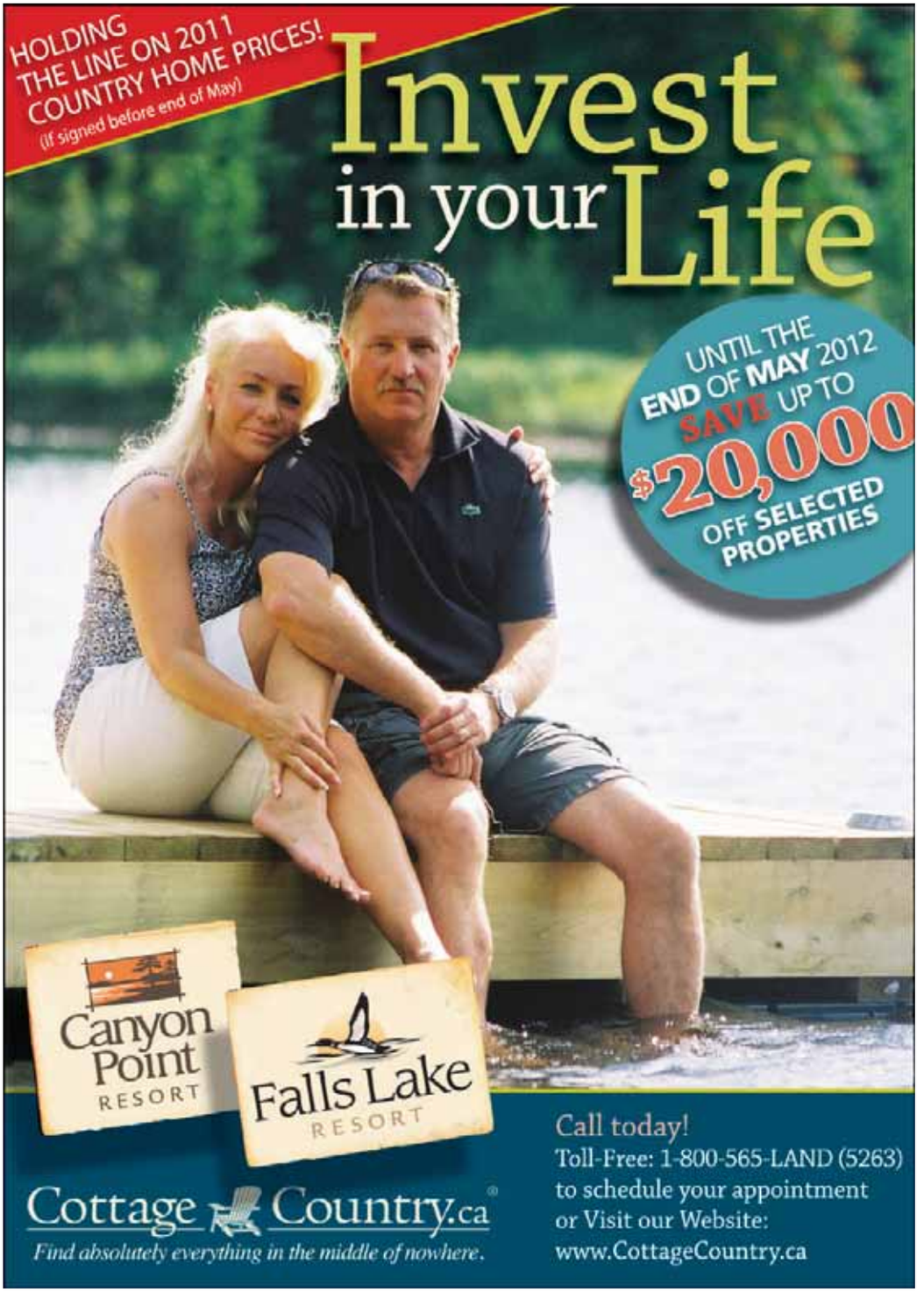
The last resort is to talk to counsel, says Lesperance.

Typical claims in neighbour dispute cases would be trespassing, nuisance or maybe negligence.



Whether you are looking at buying a home or a condo, neighbours will be part of the deal. JUPITERIMAGES/THINKSTOCK





4
SPORTS

QMJHL

League to hold combine on weekend

The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League will host its 2012 Under Armour combine for draft prospects this weekend in Boisbriand, Que. Eighty of the top-ranked prospects from the 2012 draft class will participate in on- and off-ice testing as well as games and skill-development clinics from Friday through Sunday. Scouts from each team will be on hand to evaluate talent in preparation for the draft on June 9 in Quebec City.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

For more coverage of the Halifax Mooseheads, including extended coverage and photo galleries, follow @metroqfiles on Twitter or visit metronews.ca. Metro Halifax reporter Matthew Wuest and photographer Ryan Taplin are in Rimouski, Que., to cover the QMJHL semifinal between the Mooseheads and Oceanic.

Injury scare

MacKinnon says he's fine: Coach

The Halifax Mooseheads may have survived a big injury scare to leading scorer Nathan MacKinnon.

The 16-year-old rookie left Wednesday's QMJHL semifinal game against the Rimouski Oceanic with around four minutes left in the third period after taking a hit behind the net from defenceman Etienne Boutet.

MacKinnon's head made contact with the end boards as he crumpled to the ice. He stayed down for about half a minute before skating off on his own. He went to the dressing room and did not return.

"I asked him when I walked into the room (after the game). He told me he's fine," said Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme. "It was more of precaution. We wanted to make sure he was OK. I don't think it's serious because he's fine."

When asked if MacKinnon would play in Friday's Game 5, Ducharme said: "Right now I believe he's going to be in. I don't see why he wouldn't be."

The Cole Harbour native leads the QMJHL playoffs in scoring with 13 goals and 13 assists for 26 points in 15 games.

MacKinnon took a spear earlier in the third period from Rimouski forward Robbie DeFulvis, an infraction Oceanic head coach Serge Beausoleil denounced.

"I'm not the kind of guy who won't admit it — that was a bad penalty," Beausoleil said. "It was not a four-minute penalty, it was not a spearing penalty, it was kind of a slashing penalty, but it was not a good one."

Both Ducharme and Beausoleil said they had no issues with the Boutet hit on MacKinnon.

"It was a solid hit," Ducharme said. "I think Nathan was a little bit reaching for the puck. That's about it."

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO



Nathan MacKinnon is helped off the ice by Mooseheads trainer Diane Ouimet Wednesday in Rimouski. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



Mooseheads goalie Zach Fucale makes a stop on Oceanic captain Jean-Philippe Mathieu during Wednesday night's QMJHL playoff game in Rimouski. Fucale made 34 saves to lead the Moose to a 3-1 Game 4 win. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Mooseheads shoot down Oceanic

QMJHL semifinals. Three power-play goals lift Mooseheads to second straight victory in enemy territory



MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads are a long way from the desperate howls to "shoot" that rain down on them during power plays at the Metro Centre.

But in Rimouski, Que., where you can count the number of Mooseheads fans on two hands, the Mooseheads did just that — shoot the puck with the man advantage — and were rewarded with three power-play goals en route to a 3-1 win over the host Rimouski Oceanic on Wednesday night.

The Mooseheads, who had struggled to score with just one power-play goal on 14 previous attempts in the series, evened the QMJHL best-of-seven semifinal at two games apiece.

"Obviously the fans in Halifax have been voicing their concern about shooting the puck," said Mooseheads captain Cameron Critchlow. "They were right in their own sense, but we have a game plan on the power play. We want to move the puck around, get the shot we want, so we're sticking with the game plan and it worked. We had a lot of traffic, a lot of pucks on net, and the pucks had eyes and deflected into the net."

The 20-year-old Critchlow scored two big goals — much to the delight of the loyal fans who made the trip — by going to the net and tipping point shots from defenceman Konrad Abeltshauser.

Critchlow's first tied the game 1-1 at 11:39 of the first period, bringing the Mooseheads back into the game after Oceanic star Alex Belzile opened the scoring at 8:18. His second was an insurance goal that gave the Mooseheads a two-goal cushion with 8:56 to go.

"If there's a shooting lane and we have traffic, we try to shoot it," Abeltshauser said of Halifax's mentality. "It's pretty much always dangerous if my stick doesn't break, when I shoot from the point."

Sandwiched in between the Critchlow goals was the game-winner form 20-year-old winger Alexandre Grenier, who showed a great finishing touch in front to snap a seven-game goal-less drought off a feed from Nathan MacKinnon.

The Oceanic went 0-for-4 on their power plays, including a 74-second two-man advantage late in the first period that could have changed the game.

"In my mind, the special teams were the (difference) in the game," said Oceanic head coach Serge Beausoleil. "We didn't seize our chance on the five-on-three power play, we were not dangerous, and it was good penalty-killing for the Moose. I think that was the turning point."

Quoted

"It feels pretty good to be tied 2-2 (in the series). This is exactly what we wanted. We didn't want to dig ourselves into a hole and we've done pretty good here."

Mooseheads defenceman Konrad Abeltshauser

Game 5 information

- Game 5 will be played Friday at 8:30 p.m. in Rimouski, televised live on Rogers Sportsnet.
- Tickets for Game 6, scheduled for Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Metro Centre, go on sale on Thursday at 11 a.m.
- The Mooseheads sold out all 10,595 seats for last weekend's Games 1 and 2 at the Metro Centre in just two hours.
- The team hadn't sold out a playoff game since the 2005 President's Cup final.

Olympic qualifying. Truro's Cameron earns her spot at London games

Truro's Tracy Cameron is the fourth Nova Scotian to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

The 37-year-old rower, who won a bronze medal at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, won a row-off with Patricia Obee on Tuesday in Victoria to clinch the second spot in Canada's women's lightweight double boat in London. Victoria's Lindsay Jennerich had already clinched the first spot.

"There was a lot at stake — the chance to represent Canada in the Olympics — and I had butterflies going to the line," Cameron told the Victoria Times Colonist.

Cameron, who missed last season with a broken rib, won her Olympic bronze with Melanie Kok and teamed up with Jennerich for gold at the 2010 world championships.

Swimmer David Sharp of Halifax, sailor Danielle Dube of Glen Haven and marathoner Eric Gillis of Antigonish have also qualified for the London Olympics.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO



Tracy Cameron, right, and Melanie Kok of Canada celebrate a bronze medal at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

MMA. Fairview's Hollett pulls out of Friday's Cage Combat main event

Fairview's Roger Hollett has withdrawn from Friday's Extreme Cage Combat 14: Warrior's Soul at the Halifax Forum.

Hollett was set to face UFC veteran Jeremy Horn in the main event but he can no longer compete because of medical reasons. A replacement to face Horn in the heavyweight match has not yet been announced.

The main event now features Ricky Goodall (9-5) versus Strikeforce veteran Joe Ray (6-3).

"Joe Ray is a veteran of 50 Muay Thai fights and is a deadly striker. Ricky Goodall is known for his striking, so this should be an exciting fight," said ECC promoter Peter Martell.

It's not clear whether Hollett's medical issue will also prevent him from fighting Attila Vegh at Bellator 71 on June 22.

If a replacement for Hollett is not found, Horn fans with tickets to Friday's ECC event will be offered a free seminar with the fighter on Thursday starting at 7 p.m. at 899 Portland St. in Dartmouth.

Doors open on Friday at 6:30 p.m.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO

Tennis

Raonic advances in Barcelona

Canadian Milos Raonic defeated Russian Igor Andreev 6-4, 6-1 on Wednesday to reach the third round at the Barcelona Open.

The 11th seed from Thornhill, Ont., who often trains in the Catalan capital during the season, advances to meet sixth-seeded Spaniard Nicolas Almagro on Thursday.

"I feel my level improved a lot between my first match and this one," he said. "I'm hitting the ball better and feeling well."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Johnson to grace Madden cover

Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson has been selected to appear on the cover of Madden NFL '13, the popular video game, in a vote by fans.

Johnson beat out Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, the NFL offensive rookie of the year, by garnering 52 per cent of the more than 651,000 votes cast in the competition between the two playmakers. ESPN revealed the results live on its SportsNation show Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Capitals forward Mike Knuble celebrates teammate Joel Ward's overtime goal in Boston on Wednesday night. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caps put an end to Bruins' cup reign

NHL. Washington advances to second round by eliminating defending champs at home in Boston

Joel Ward slammed home a rebound at 2:57 of overtime to give Washington a 2-1 victory over Boston on Wednesday night, sending the Capitals to the second round of the playoffs and ending the defending Stanley Cup champion Bruins' hopes of a repeat.

Rookie Braden Holtby stopped 31 shots for Washington in Game 7 — the seventh one-goal game of the series. Matt Hendricks scored the Capitals' other goal.

Tyler Seguin scored, and Tim Thomas made 26 saves for Boston.

It was the first time in NHL history that a playoff series had seven games determined by one goal. Four of the games went to overtime.

Hendricks scored midway through the first period, and Seguin tied it in the second. It stayed that way through a scoreless third, with Washington killing off a penalty in the final three minutes to send the game into overtime.

Game 7

Capitals	Bruins
2	1

Patrice Bergeron had a chance to win it in the first minute of the extra period, but he couldn't get off a solid shot from Holtby's right. Two minutes later, the Capitals broke into the Boston zone with former Bruin Mike Knuble leading a 2-on-1.

Knuble shot, and Thomas left the rebound out where Ward could reach it with his backhander.

The building fell silent as the Capitals celebrated just their third post-season series win since a run to the Stanley Cup finals in 1998. Some fans littered the ice with debris, but the Bruins waited for the post-game handshake.

Thomas, bringing up the rear, gave Holtby a tap on the shoulder and said, "Great job, kid."

No team has repeated as Stanley Cup champions since the Detroit Red Wings in 1997-98. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Eric Thames watches a home-run ball Wednesday in Baltimore. MITCHELL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES

Jays shut out for first time this year

Jason Hammel pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Wilson Betemit and Chris Davis homered, and the Baltimore Orioles blanked the Toronto Blue Jays 3-0 Wednesday night.

After limiting Toronto to one run on Tuesday, Baltimore became the first team this season to shut out the Blue Jays. The Orioles are 4-1 against Toronto after going 6-12 last year.

Hammel (3-0) struck out seven and walked one in lowering his ERA to 1.73 over four starts. The right-hander came to Baltimore in February with reliever Matt Lindstrom in the trade that sent Jeremy Guthrie to Colorado.

"So far it's good," Orioles manager Buck Showalter said of the trade. "Jeremy's going to pitch real well over there. He already is. We look at it as quality for quality."

Hammel has been brilliant thus far, and he hasn't even fully adjusted to pitching in the AL.

"I am still learning a new league and seeing what everybody else is doing," he said.

Blue Jays starter Kyle Drabek (2-1) allowed two runs, five hits and three walks in six innings. He was aided by three double plays.

But Drabek got little support from the Toronto offence. Yunel Escobar struck out three times, Kelly Johnson went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and the Blue Jays placed only three runners in scoring position.

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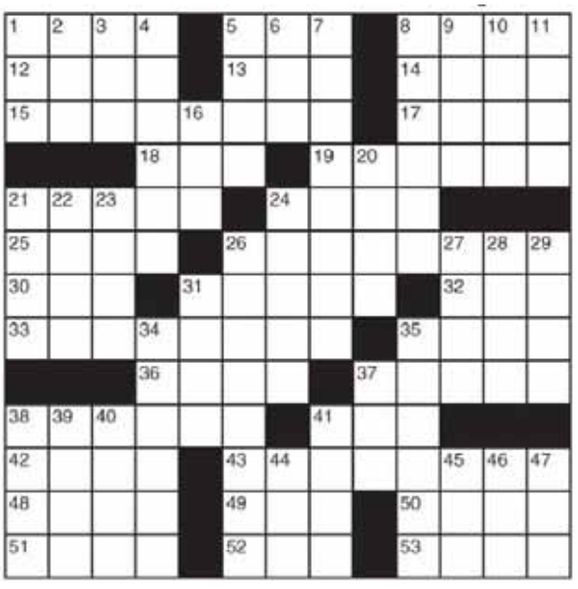
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Across

1 Big bash
5 Caviar, basically
8 Bunch of cronies
12 Shakespeare's river
13 Author Fleming
14 A-line creator
15 Traveler's verification
17 Oppositionist
18 Humor
19 Sought prey
21 Taken for granted
24 Smooch
25 Hebrew month
26 Superintendent's ringful
30 Prepared
31 Judge, often
32 Right-turn command
33 Long-popular game show
35 Dove's home
36 Potter's oven
37 Washbowl
38 Docking area
41 Charged particle
42 Particular
43 Seder time
48 Daytime drama
49 Baltimore newspaper
50 Tablet
51 Agile
52 Small lizard
53 Sweet potatoes

Down

1 Hiatus
2 Ms. Gardner
3 Part of UCLA
4 Response
5 Laugh-a-minute
6 Scull tool
7 Filled with zeal
8 Polish port city
9 "— Misbehavin' "
10 Staff member?
11 Grating
16 Wrestling victory
20 Abbr. on old Asian maps
21 React in horror
22 Notion
23 Cisterns
24 Wee Scot
26 Slippage, to an anatomist
27 Cooperation barriers
28 Bigfoot's cousin
29 Spotted
31 Clone
34 Covering hardly anything
35 Awning
37 Derek and Diddley
38 "— Congeniality"
39 On
40 Bring up
41 "— It Romantic?"
44 Wiedersehen preceder
45 By way of
46 Freddy's street
47 Literary monogram



Sudoku

			4				7	3
3	2				8			
8				9			2	4
	6			8		4		
2								9
		1		7			5	
9	8			6				7
			2				8	1
1	5				9			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	1	2	9	8	4	7	3
4	3	8	7	6	1	9	5	2
9	7	2	4	3	5	6	8	1
5	1	4	6	8	3	2	9	7
7	8	6	9	1	2	5	3	4
3	2	9	5	4	7	8	1	6
1	4	3	8	2	9	7	6	5
8	6	7	3	5	4	1	2	9
2	9	5	1	7	6	3	4	8

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

MXCS KCQKIC BFC VEFYHSD QS B FQIICF VQBYLCF, VQEIN RQE YBR LXCR'FC YMCBFHSD EK BSN NQMS?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD A COMIC BOOK ABOUT SOME SUPER-POTENT BAKING STUFF GET TITLED "THE FANTASTIC FLOUR"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 13°/6° Showers 40%
Friday 14°/3° Rain 100%
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The Weather Network HD
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Any doubts you have about a financial deal come from your subconscious mind, which is trying to warn you not to get involved.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Common sense should tell you to be cautious today but as common sense is currently in limited supply, you probably won't listen.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You may be tempted to spend the day in your own private little bubble but let loved ones know.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Others will take what you say very seriously, even though to you it may be nothing more than a bit of fun.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Your imagination could get you into trouble today, especially on the work front.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Don't let anyone persuade you that you need to cut back on the many tasks you have set yourself.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Avoid signing up for group projects. You will do better soldiering on alone, at least for now.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Some people will be difficult to get along with today, not least because they are unsure of all the changes going on in your shared environment.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You may believe the best way to solve a problem is to scrap everything but that would be a waste of the time you have already invested.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You can no longer deny that you have been playing a role with which you no longer feel comfortable.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. There will be disruption on the home front today, caused by a loved one's sense of grievance.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. If there is something important you need to say, make sure you choose your words carefully. Get to the point quickly too. **SALLY BROMPTON**



Caption Contest

"Don't worry, my bark is worse than my Battu!"
Jared

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!



You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.







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Steering Wheel Audio Controls	✓	✗	✗
Heated Sideview Mirrors	✓	✓	✗

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MOTORING 2012



Rio5 SX shown

HWY: 4.9L/100KM
CITY: 6.6L/100KM

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